



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY**  
OF THE UNITED STATES

*Celebrating 60 Years*

August 3, 2015

Dear Community Leaders,

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization, supports the following proposed legislation and pet store programs. We would like Michigan community leaders to encourage humane pet acquisitions through animal shelters and foster-based animal rescue organizations.

1. Statewide legislation to license and enact common-sense standards for large-scale dog breeding operations in Michigan.
2. The Humane Pet Acquisition Ordinance, which will help to protect families from irresponsible pet retailers. While we are focused primarily on the impact local ordinances can have on pet overpopulation, and in particular, on protecting communities from the cruelties of the puppy mill industry, we of course support the work of this coalition.
3. The HSUS Puppy-Friendly Pet Store Pledge, which encourages pet supply stores to make an official policy not to sell puppies or kittens.

The Humane Society of the United States operates the nation's largest network of animal care centers, and each year, works with state and local agencies, including in Michigan, to rescue thousands of animals from puppy mills, animal fighting operations, other cruelty cases, and natural disasters.

We oppose the sale of dogs, cats, and other animals through pet stores and other commercial operations in which profit undermines proper care, seriously compromising the welfare of the animals. Furthermore, millions of animals are euthanized each year for lack of appropriate homes—a situation made worse by puppy mills. Our investigations of mass-breeding operations that produce animals for wholesale to the pet industry also have exposed such unacceptable conditions as overcrowding; inadequate shelter, sanitation, food, water, and veterinary care; and lack of social or behavioral enrichment. Thus, we support efforts to cut off the pipeline of animals from these inhumane breeding operations to unsuspecting consumers.

Sincerely,

Jill Fritz

Michigan Senior State Director